Management Institute (an International Future Harvest Center under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), Colombo was signed at New Delhi on 25th November, 1996.

(b) The terms of the agreement are implemented on an annual basis. Each year a new Workplan is developed and agreed for implementation. The Workplan for 2006-07 was signed on 24th January, 2006 and shall remain valid upto 30th March, 2007, unless otherwise terminated, modified, or extended by mutual consent.

Under the agreement, there is a provision to develop and implement collaborative projects in the areas of mutual interest, share information and expertise in the areas of advanced research, bring out joint publications and undertake other means to achieve the objectives.

Under the agreement, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) also helps and sponsors Indian institutions/scientists for capacity building, training and participation in important meetings/seminars/workshops.

(c) The collaboration with IWMI will be very useful to solve the water management related issues in agriculture in India. The umbrella agreement with IWMI covers joint projects in India in the following areas:—

(i) Multiple water use systems for small holder farmers.

(ii) Understanding and improving water productivity.

(iii) Watershed management in rainfed areas and water institutions.

(iv) Safe and sustainable use of low-quality waters.

(v) Drought assessment and management.

(vi) Groundwater governance and management.

(vii) Water health and environment.

Assistance to Punjab for sugarcane development

2896. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a provision of Rs. 120 crores was made in the Annual Plan for paying to Punjab @ Rs. 20/- per quintal for 600 lakh quintals of sugarcane to be crushed;

(b) whether the said assistance has been released and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any representation has been received from the State Government for early release of the fund and also to make provision for Rs. 120 crores in the Annual Plan for 2006-2007 as incentives to sugarcane growers of the State and to bring more areas under sugarcane cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, to increase production and productivity of sugarcane, a Cenrally Sponsored Scheme under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is implemented in the various State including the State of Punjab. Under this schemes financial assistance on various inputs, such as seed multiplication, implements, drip irrigation, heat treatment plant and transfer of production technology through demonstrations and trainings are provided to different States.

Demand and supply gap in cereals

2897. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand and supply gap of cereals in the country is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the demand and supply of cereals during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether a study has shown that the production of cereals and demand of cereals may see a huge gap keeping in view the fact that India will have the youngest population in future; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to increase the production of cereals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Based on the National Sample Survey Organisation's 60th Round (2004) Consumer Expenditure Survey, the assessed demand (consumption requirement of cereals for the country,